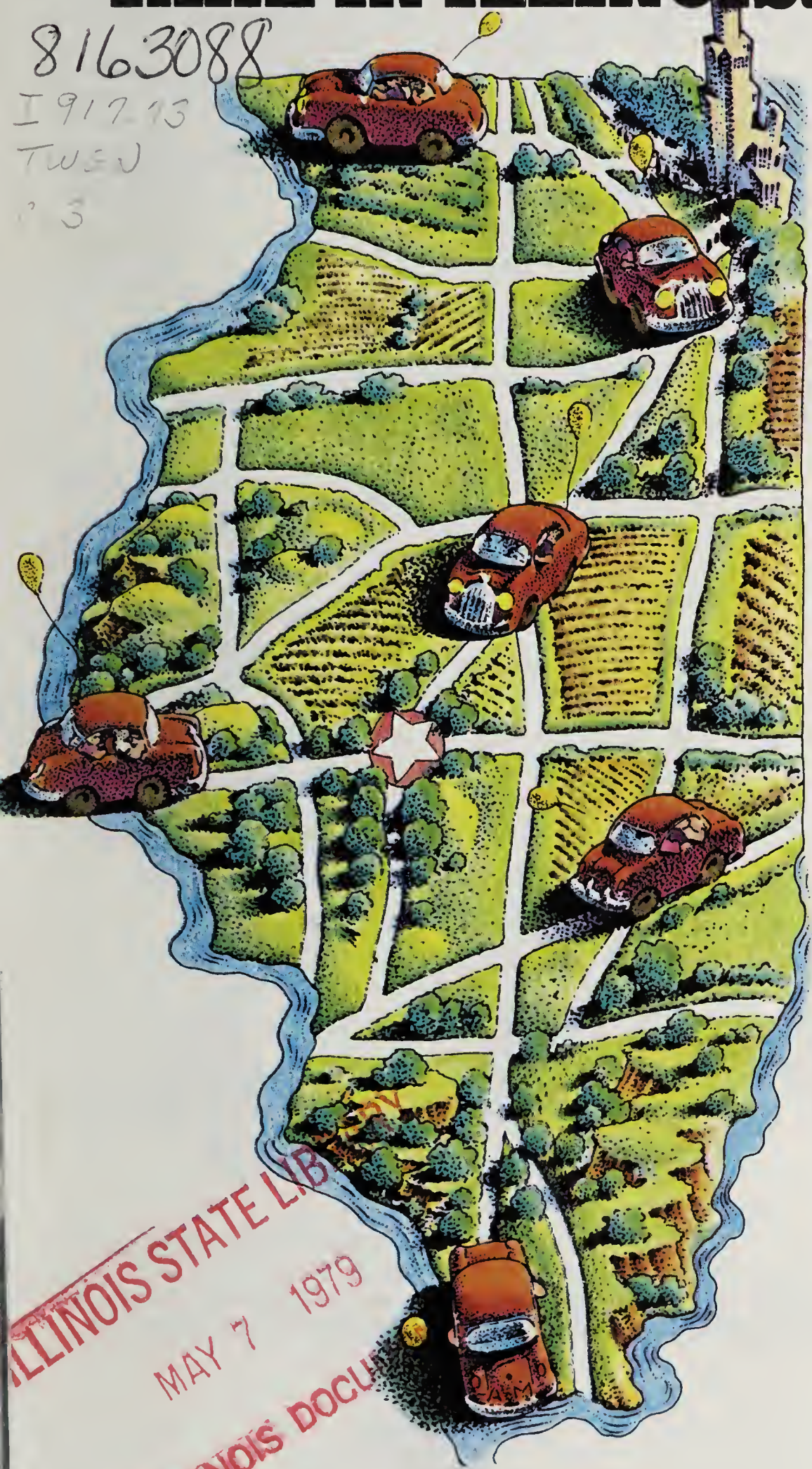


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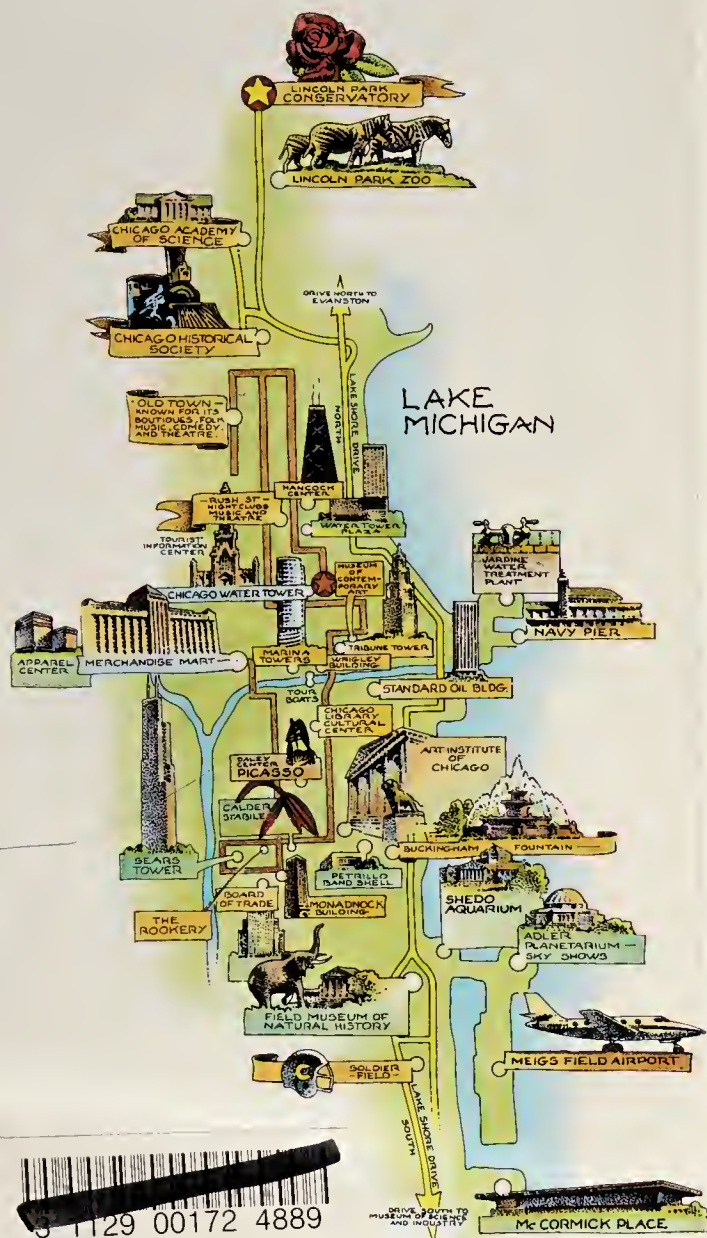
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1.

Chicago's lively heart and sprawling lakeshore are unveiled in the first two tours. They're a brief two-day introduction that starts with the city's most famous landmark.



Chicago Water Tower. Begin here (Michigan and Chicago) at the landmark from the fire of 1871—when Mrs. O'Leary's cow allegedly kicked the lantern that sent the city up in flames. Today the old tower is a Visitor Information Center.

Water Tower Place. Located across the street, this kingpin of Michigan Avenue's "Magnificent Mile" has glass elevators that whisk you through a seven-level atrium shopping mall. Due north is the John Hancock Building, tallest residential office building in the world. Get a great view from its top-floor observation windows, then drive north to Walton. Like Oak, one block south, this avenue brims with interesting shops. The next cross street is Rush, an artery for glittery nightspots.

Drive north on Rush. Merge with North State Parkway; the Playboy Mansion (1340 N.) was once the social center of the magazine empire.

Old Town. At North Avenue, turn west. Drive to Wells and enter its area of intriguing shops; Second City Theater (1616 N. Wells) is the launching point for American improvisation. Alumni Mike Nichols and John Belushi started their careers here.

Return east on North to Clark, and drive south to Chicago Avenue. Turn left, continue east past Michigan to Fairbanks Court. Drive south to Ontario and the Museum of Contemporary Art (237 E. Ontario) with its recently enlarged exhibit area. Now return to Michigan and drive south. The gothic lines of Tribune Tower (435 N. Michigan) house Chicago's largest newspaper. Across the street is the baroque Wrigley Building, another sample of the city's always interesting architecture. Behind the Wrigley is the Sun-Times Building, home of Chicago's other major newspaper. Both offer tours.

Just south of the Michigan Avenue bridge is the site of Fort Dearborn, Chicago's first settlement, now marked by bronze tablets which chronicle city history. On Michigan between Randolph and Washington is the Chicago Public Library Cultural Center; built in 1871, its mosaic walls and Tiffany windows offer a backdrop for continuing programs and exhibits.

Art Institute. Drive south to the bronze lions that stand guard for one of the world's largest Impressionist painting collections. Every major artist is represented. See the newly acquired Chagall "America Windows." During summer, a courtyard garden cafe lets you rest in fine style. Across the street is Orchestra Hall, home of the world's top-rated Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

The Loop. Turn right at Adams and enter the famous "Loop," defined by Chicago's encircling rapid transit system. Drive west under the "El" to State—"that Great Street," now transformed into an expansive shopping mall. Park your car, because the area is closed to all vehicles except buses. After shopping, return to Adams and continue to Federal Center Plaza (Adams and Dearborn) and the 50-ton red stable designed by Alexander Calder. The Rookery, at LaSalle and Adams, is the oldest remaining steel-skeleton skyscraper in the world. Frank Lloyd Wright designed the lobby in 1905. To your left is mid-America's Wall Street. The building at the foot of LaSalle is the Board of Trade, largest commodities futures market in the nation. Visitors are welcomed weekdays.

Sears Tower. Pass under the tracks to reach this 110-story giant, the world's tallest building. An observation deck gives you a 1,353-foot panorama of the city: Circle the Tower and drive east on Jackson; the Monadnock Building (153 W. Jackson) was the world's largest office building in 1891. At Dearborn, turn left. Drive to Madison.

First National Bank Plaza. Shadowed by the world's tallest bank is Chagall's "Four Seasons," a 3,000-square-foot mosaic of blazing colors. Summer lunchtime concerts are held in the tree-lined plaza. One block north, at Daley Plaza, is the 50-foot, 162-ton Picasso sculpture.

Drive north on Dearborn to Wacker; turn left and follow the river to Wells. Directly north is the Merchandise Mart, world's largest wholesale commercial buying center—with 97 acres of floor space. The Mart's neighbor, the Apparel Center, showcases some of the world's best fashion designers.

End your tour, or take sidetrips to the Archi Center, 310 S. Michigan, and learn more about Chicago's fabled architecture. For info on tours, call 312/782-1776. Or check the Visitor Eventline (312/922-7000) for 24-hour tips on Chicago entertainment.

2.

Lincoln Park Conservatory. At 2400 N. Stockton, this horticultural delight ranks among the world's finest. Nearby, Lincoln Park Zoo's menagerie of 3,000 animals is set amidst 30 city blocks of beaches. See the Children's Zoo, and a farm filled with every barnyard critter that ever caddled or mooed.

Chicago Academy of Sciences. At 2100 N. Clark, the Academy's Illinois ecology and geology displays are a specialty; one whole floor shows what the city looked like 200 years ago.

The Chicago Historical Society. (North and Clark.) Here halls are packed with everything from Abe Lincoln's carriage and charred cookies from the Chicago Fire, to a mint first print of the Declaration of Independence.

Backtrack north on Clark to LaSalle. Drive east to southbound Lake Shore, then follow the express lanes past the fashionable Gold Coast. Continue past Oak Street Beach.

Navy Pier. Turn east to see this restored landmark and home of the annual ChicagoFest. The James W. Jardine Water Purification Plant is on the left—the world's largest. Tours by reservation: 312/744-3692. The high rise is Lake Point Tower.

Drive south across the Chicago River, whose current was long ago reversed in a startling engineering feat. Tour boats, a few blocks west at Michigan, offer cruises up-river and into the lake.

Standard Oil Plaza Building. See the "sounding" Bertioia sculpture, then look up 100 stories. Ahead, on your right, is Grant Park's Petrillo Bandshell, where free outdoor symphony concerts are held evenings, June through August. A July 3 Chicago Symphony Orchestra performance heralds Independence Day with music and fireworks. The plume of water on your right near Congress is Buckingham Fountain, fashioned after a landmark at the palace in Versailles, France. Lighted sprays dazzle visitors May through September, starting at 9 p.m. each evening.

Field Museum of Natural History. Built in 1893 for the Columbian Exposition, this Grant Park landmark offers miles of corridors lined with everything from dinosaur skeletons to mummies and special exhibits like the recent Treasures of Tutankhamun. Walk under Lake Shore via the passageway.

Shedd Aquarium. Behind these Doric columns are 8,000 fish of 350 species. Dim passages lead past sharks, eels and frisky penguins. A 90,000-gallon Coral Reef shows a tropical marine world where divers hand-feed fish daily.

Adler Planetarium. Walk east on the peninsula to where "sky shows" make a drama of celestial happenings like Haley's Comet and the Star of Bethlehem. Scales here show how much you weigh on other planets. A Doane Observatory lets you view them through a complex television camera system.

Look north for a skyscraper view: to the south is Meigs Field, where sightseeing flights are available. Boat tours depart from the dock below the Aquarium. Return to Lake Shore Drive.

Soldier Field. This lake front sport stadium is on the left. The low-slung building ahead is McCormick Place, its 2.5 million square feet of exhibit area helping make Chicago the world's convention Capital. Continue south.

Museum of Science and Industry. At 57th and Lake Shore in Jackson Park, its 75 exhibit halls are filled with over 2,000 displays. Participatory gadgets explain all the principles of science. A full-sized coal mine, a captured German submarine, a miniature 20,000-member circus, and the Apollo 8 space module—they're all here. You can also walk through a human heart, watch yourself on television, see old-time movies on a cobbled 1890's street, or view antique airplanes.

3.

For a day-long, 145-mile trip from Chicago, here's a tour south on Route 55. You'll see an indoor rollercoaster, and a midwest vineyard where wine masters still grow grapes the old way.



Old Chicago. Bizzards and rainstorms won't keep you away from this indoor shopping mall and amusement park at Routes 53 and 55. Circus performers, a ferris wheel, an 1890's Chicago street lined with shops, top music acts—everything under one huge dome.

Brookfield Zoo. At 1st and 31st in Brookfield, this wildlife menagerie highlights acres of outdoor habitat that include dolphin shows and niles of animal viewing. See Olga the Walrus, whose yearly food bill for fish totals \$6,000.

Illinois-Michigan Canal. Lockport's museum at 803 S. State chronicles the history of this old waterway, now one of Illinois' major recreation areas. A fifteen-mile parkway stretches south from Channahon.

Goose Lake Prairie State Park. Ecologists from around the nation travel here to view one of America's largest stands of virgin prairie grass. A marked trail lets you hike for miles. Drive to Kankakee River State Park (stop in Wilmington for antiques) via Route 102. Over 3,700 acres of dunes, meandering creeks, canyons.

Thompson Winery. Native Illinois "savoir faire" includes vineyard tours and free samples. Over 25,000 gallons of wine and 5,000 cases of champagne are produced annually in old-fashioned French oak casks. Take Route 57 to Monee, then south to Pauling Road. Open weekends, May through September. Sundays only, October through April.

Returning to Chicago, visit Frankfort, Chicago Heights and Crete for specialty shops and antiques; Frankfort's "Grainery" has an unusual shopping setting—a refurbished lumber yard with cobbled sidewalks. Svoboda's Nickelodeon Tavern in Chicago Heights lets you play the nostalgia game with over 150 old music-making relics.

4.

Bounded by the same Mississippi shore Mark Twain knew, this 225-mile tour begins in Galesburg, lets you nibble Illinois blue cheese, sip French wine, browse through Brigham Young's house, ogle Jon Browning's guns and visit the final resting place of the world's heaviest (1,065 lbs.) human being.



Galesburg. Begin at Carl Sandburg's birthplace (331 E. Third) and drive west (Route 34) to Mornmouth; Wild West marshal Wyatt Earp was born at 913 S. Sixth. At North 6th and Archer there's an old pioneer cemetery dating back a century.

Big River State Forest. A 2,671-acre terrace of oak laced with sixty miles of firebreak hiking trails. Visit the Oquawka covered bridge, then head south (Route 94/116 to Route 96) to the rejuvenated swampland that spawned Brigham Young's dramatic exodus west to Utah.

Nauvoo. During the 1840's this was home to thousands of Mormon followers of Joseph Smith; only two decades after purchase from the Indians for 200 sacks of corn, Nauvoo was Illinois' largest town. Shrunk now from 27,000 to 1,500 folk, Nauvoo still retains its heritage. Begin a walking tour at the Joseph Smith Homestead (Water and Main Sts.) or the Visitors' Center (Young and Main Sts.). Jonathon Browning's gunsmith shop and home are open for tours—be sure to see guns that won the west, as well as antique rifles and pistols. The Grape Festival, Nauvoo's heritage from French settlers who followed the Mormons, is held each Labor Day. Visit the Gem City Vineland Company (East Parley) for samples and a tour; the local blue cheese can be tasted at the Nauvoo Milk Products Company. The town Historical Museum adjoins a vineyard that has been growing grapes for 100 years; nearby Nauvoo State Park displays the famous "Sunstone," a remnant of the great Mormon Temple which in 1844 cost over \$1 million. And don't forget the "Monument to Women," a two-acre statutory park erected by the Mormon Church. Then drive south to Hamilton. Watch for picnic spots at the foot of the Mississippi Bluffs.

Carthage. Its famous jail is your sidetrip east on Route 136. Joseph Smith was murdered here by an angry mob.

Quincy. Riverfront sites include the County Historical Museum (12th near State), a pillared 17-room southern mansion filled with rare china, Civil War guns, manuscripts—even a chandelier once anglo jangled above the salon of an 1800's river steamboat. Breezy heights are easily coursed via aerial cable-car "sky rides" to Quinsippi Island, a recreation area with a zoo, Indian artifacts, log cabins, an old train depot and paddlewheeler rides.

Siloam Springs State Park. Once a magical source for medicinal water. The 3,000-acre park once belonged to a 102-year-old war veteran who credited the local springs for his longevity. The former health mecca now features hiking and summer interpretive programs.

Big, Big Robert Earl Hughes. His 1,065 pound bulk qualifying him as the world's heaviest human being, he's buried in nearby Benville in a casket 85 inches long, 52 inches wide and 34 inches deep.

Beardstown. Your next sidetrip (Route 103 east). It was here in 1858 that Abraham Lincoln successfully defended accused murderer Duff Armstrong by presenting an almanac to discredit a witness who said he saw a killing by bright moonlight. Lincoln showed that the moon was in its first quarter—too dim for anyone to actually see Armstrong and identify him. You can still view the courtroom where the famous "Almanac Murder Trial" took place. It's in the town square. Then continue on Route 24 to Lewistown.

Dickson Mounds Museum. A storehouse of Illinois archeological displays, and a good starting point for your return to Galesburg via county roads and the marked Spoon River Scenic Drive.

Spoon River Scenic Drive. If you're an Edgar Lee Masters buff, and have read Spoon River Anthology, start at Lewistown's Oak Hill Cemetery on the north side of town, at Main Street. Here, amid the eerie surroundings that inspired Masters' couplets, you can imagine the literary likes of Hod Putt, Ida Frickey and Dow Kritt speaking from their fictional graves. Other Spoon River stops are Bernadotte, Babylon Bend and hamlets often tucked out-of-sight in the valley forest. Sample area craft shops and special events that are slated most every summer weekend. Autumn festivals are a favorite along the valley.

Return to Galesburg.

5.

Two poets, an eerie river valley, steamboat rides, and the undisturbed remains of Indians who walked Illinois 1,000 years ago are what to expect on this 225-mile tour that begins in Moline.



The Deere and Company Administrative Center. On Deere Road in East Moline. Highlights Eero Saarinen's architecture and a mural made of 2,000 old-time farm objects. Tours daily. South of Route 74 in Coal Valley is Niabi Zoo, where kids and big folks can eye-ball 228 acres of animal land. Nature trails, too. Open April-November.

Arsenal Island. A cache of Rock Island history across the 24th St. bridge. See Fort Armstrong's restored blackhouse. The Browning Museum displays the guns that won the west. Near the Clock Tower is the world's largest roller-gate dam.

Black Hawk State Park. At 46th and 14th, it's near where Revolutionary soldiers fought their westernmost battle. The Hauberg Museum has Indian artifacts.

Galesburg. Boasts the Carl Sandburg Birthplace on 331 East Third. Squirrelled inside the home are family portraits, autographed works, even the typewriter used to peck out Lincoln's biography. The poet's ashes are buried behind the house.

Bishop Hill. Take a sidetrip north on Route 34 and see where Swedes came in 1846 to flee their persecutors in Europe. Start a walking tour at the Old Colony Church, see the prairie primitive paintings of Olaf Krans, browse through hundreds of museum pieces, and pick up a brochure. Stroll to the Steeple Building, the Bjorkland Hotel, and the Blacksmith Shop. Ask about Erik Jansson and Bishop Hill's often volatile history.

Then head east to Williamsfield and the Knox County Scenic Drive (via Route 180) and a marked path through tiny towns. The Spoon River Scenic Drive (from London Mills, Route 116) makes Edgar Lee Masters' couplets come alive. Watch for oval signs through Ellisville, Mt. Pisgah, Babylon Bend. In Lewistown, the Rasmussen Blacksmith Shop is now a museum.

Dickson Mounds Museum. Off Route 97/78, near Havana; overlooks the Illinois River Valley and traces prehistory on 162 acres of exhibits. See the Indian village and 230 burial plots unearthed by archeologists.

Peoria. Take a ride aboard the Julia Belle Swain stern-wheeler. Visit the ticket office on Main Street. The Flanagan House (942 N.E. Glen Oak) has 14 rooms filled with pre-Civil War treasures. The Mormon House (1212 W. Moss) offers more elegant Victorian displays. Fort Crevecoeur is being restored nearby and hosts an annual "rendezvous." For planetarium exhibits, visit the Lakeview Museum of Arts and Sciences at 1125 W. Lake.

Wildlife Prairie Park. Between Routes 116 and 8, west of town, this is an unusual zoo with special "habitat" walking paths that let you view animals native to early Illinois without the bother of bars. Open daily, except Tuesday, May through October.

Hennepin Canal Parkway. Near Sheffield (drive north on Route 88); a remnant from the boisterous 1800's. Sheffield's St. Peter's Church (Washington Street) is home to the nation's largest Danish Lutheran congregation. The Queen of Denmark rededicated the landmark in 1976.

Ropp's Horseshoe Farm Museum. In Geneseo. Lets you view an operating rural enterprise and a farm museum. Belgian horses here work against backdrop exhibits that range from old machinery to nostalgic household items. The farm is located ten miles north of town. Follow Route 82 to 92, turn right, continue for three-quarters of a mile. Watch for the signs. Open May through November. The Johnson 1910 Farm, located between Geneseo and the Atkinson Route 80 exit, includes 1890's exhibits... something grandpa might recall.

Return to East Moline.

6.

The Illinois River Valley, once a travel center for early paddlewheel steamboats, starts you on this 165-mile tour through the heart of the prairie. There's a little bit of Abe Lincoln lore, too. Begin in Peoria.



Peoria. Browse through its old mansions; each summer the town's riverfront explodes during "Steamboat Days," a festival highlighting a race between the Julia Belle Swain stern-wheeler and hilarious home-made challengers. Drive Route 121 south.

The Postville Courthouse. At 915 Fifth Street in Lincoln; a replica frontier lawhouse filled with Civil War souvenirs and collections of guns and old swords. Abe Lincoln's campaign banner is also displayed, as well as furniture used during his circuit riding days. Homespun humor marked Lincoln's reaction when it was told this town would become his first namesake. Nothing named Lincoln, he joked, had ever amounted to much.

Springfield. Offers America's richest concentration of Lincoln attractions and landmarks, sites that trace the President's life through several stages. It was here in 1837 that he first tried his "experiment as a lawyer," lodging with store clerk Joshua Speed though he couldn't afford one night's rent. The Lincoln Home (8th St.) was bought in 1844 for \$1,500 and remains as a good starting point for any Springfield walking tour.

The Lincoln Post Road. Named for the route taken by Lincoln during his days as postal clerk in nearby New Salem, it begins at Old Capital Plaza; take the sidetrip and drive east to Walnut Street (Route 29). Continue north past the airport to Andrew Road, turn left and follow the signs to Athens.

The Long Nine Museum. In Athens. A treasure of lore and history dedicated to Lincoln and his political associates (all of whom captured the public eye with their considerable physical height) who had the Illinois Capital moved from Vandalia to Springfield in 1839.

New Salem State Park. Reflects life on the prairie during the 1830's. Restored and recreated log homes, stores and commercial buildings here are a mirror of what Lincoln saw during his six-year stay. The old cooperage still boasts the stone hearth which the young self-taught lawyer used during his studies.

The Clayville Rural Life Center. In Pleasant Plains, off Route 125. Includes an old stagecoach stop that now offers a year-round calendar of craft events and mini-festivals. Built in 1830, Clayville's famous prairie "pub" was once a hub for political shout sessions. Travelers, local cattlemen and lawyers like Lincoln often cooled their heels here; furnishings you'll see include original cabinet work, kitchen tables, a vintage fireplace, and a stone well that still supplies fresh drinking water.

Be sure to spend a few days in the Springfield area, enough time to view the outdoor drama at New Salem State Park, "Your Obedient Servant, A. Lincoln," and "The Sound and Light Show," held outdoors during summer at the restored Old State Capitol. Most Springfield hotels and motels provide free brochures and maps detailing area attractions.

Then drive Route 97 to Havana and the county roads leading to the next stop.

Sand Ridge State Forest. Illinois' largest wooded recreation area, it has 7,000 acres and a wide range of native plants like the prickly pear cactus and black oak. During winter over 100 miles of cross-country ski trails lace through a vast network of firebreaks.

Spring Lake Conservation Area. Once inhabited by Tamaroa and Michigamea Indians, it provides a typical Illinois River shoreline stop before returning to Peoria. The 2,000-acre outdoor stop has three boat launching ramps for anglers bound for river fishing. There's hiking, too. And camping.

The Metamora Courthouse. Northeast of Peoria, along Route 116, this is another sidetrip. Built in 1844, this stop along the 8th Judicial Circuit was a frequent destination for Abraham Lincoln for about 12 years. Museum exhibits include a special table which, because it was noted that the lanky lawyer could not bend his knee comfortably while working, was altered by sawing away a whole section.

Annual festivals held in Tour 6 area include the Clayville Fall Craft Festival (Pleasant Plains, 1st or 2nd weekend in October); the Olde English Faire (Jubilee College State Park, 3rd weekend in June); Maple Syrup Time (Springfield, January and February); Honest Abe Days (Petersburg, mid-July); and the Marigold Festival, (Pekin, late August). Peoria's Steamboat Days is usually held in mid-June.

Return to Peoria.

11.

Bearded, buggy-riding Amish farmers, a bit of Lincoln lore, and the campus sights of the University of Illinois fill this 175-mile motor trek with indoor and outdoor variety.

Start in Champaign.



The Krannert Art Museum. At 500 Peabody Dr. its collection of priceless paintings ranges from Hals and Holbein to Rembrandt. If you're stuck for directions, drive to the Information Center, 115 Illini Union.

Arthur and Arcola. Set in rolling farm country, these points provide a backdrop for Illinois' Amish community. Square, black buggies still bounce along highways in this region, and visitors can often view them during the work week. For information about area festivals and weekend "farmers markets," contact the Arthur Information Center, 106 E. Progress; or drive to Rockome Gardens (Rural Route 2, west of Arcola).

Lincoln Log Cabin Historic Site. South of Charleston, this marks the Lincoln family's final Illinois home. Discouraged after their previous homestead (now Lincoln Trail Homestead State Park near Decatur) proved unsuccessful, Thomas Lincoln came here in 1831. In 1841, Abraham Lincoln helped his financially troubled father by purchasing 40 acres of the farm for \$200. A reconstructed cabin represents a typical family settlement of the 1830's frontier. Furnished rooms exhibit how the Lincolns lived. A garden and orchard also illustrates prairie lifestyles.

The Moore Home. Lincoln's stepsister lived here during the 1850's. Lincoln, then President-elect, stopped in 1861 to have dinner with his family before heading for the White House.

Shiloh Cemetery. Located a few miles west of the park, allows visitors to see the graves of Thomas and Sarah Lincoln.

The rolling bluffs of the Embarras River provide a setting for Fox Ridge State Park, located along your drive south from Charleston. A former home of the Piankeshaw and Kickapoo Indians, the park also adjoins McCann's Ford, where it is told Lincoln and his family crossed the Embarras on their way from Indiana.

Lincoln Trail State Park. Spanning a portion of the 1,000-mile Lincoln Heritage Trail, an historical route tracing the life of Lincoln through Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois, this park allows for a rest stop before heading north to Danville. The 1,000-acre park includes scattered picnic areas and rental docks for those who want to do some afternoon boating. Largemouth bass taken from the park's 141-acre lake have tallied in at over nine pounds; channel catfish have been landed at 25 pounds.

Vermilion County Museum. Once the home of a local physician, Dr. William Fithian, Danville served as a stop during Abraham Lincoln's 1858 campaign for the U.S. Senate. During his stay Lincoln made speeches from the bedroom balcony. Dr. Fithian's private garden still sprouts a healthy crop of herbs each year.

A sidetrip near Danville runs north along Route 1 to the antiquing towns of Rossville and Hoopesston. Rossville, first settled in 1829, still reveals its heritage via a large assortment of antique, folk art and craft shops.

Kickapoo State Park. Once considered a lost cause. Strip mined for years until its landscape resembled an ugly "bad lands" area, Kickapoo today is a perfect example of nature's regenerative powers. The formerly bare ridges and scarred gullies today offer central Illinoisans one of the Midwest's best recreation areas.

Cottonwoods, haws and cherry trees now shade weekenders. And for canoers, the paddle from Potomac to Kickapoo provides views of the Vermilion Little Fork River. Strip mine pools and isolated park channels also make for great exploring. If you decide to canoe in the pools, wear life jackets, since these bowl depressions are very deep.

Kickapoo's 1,685 acres also includes three picnic areas, camping, and a special interpretive program which features summer campfire and nature tours.

Return to Champaign.

12.

Southern Illinois ghosts, the largest cross in the U.S., an 1800's country restaurant, and the only mountains in America that run east and west are featured in this tour.

It's a 135-mile trip that starts in Murphysboro, just west of Carbondale.



Lake Murphysboro State Park and Turkey Bayou Recreation Area. Both part of the 240,000-acre Shawnee National Forest, with plenty of scenery, camping, and hiking. Drive Route 3 south.

Grand Tower. Huthmacher House lets you peer into river town history through museum exhibits and monthly programs. Another old home, known during the 1800's as an emergency lodging for river travelers, today is famous for home-cooked secrets and hospitality. Ask anyone in town for directions.

La Rue-Pine Hills Recreation Area. A land of looming rocks and dense plant life. A good view of the La Rue Swamp is from Skyline Drive's 400-foot perch. A nearby road faces a cliff and is closed between September and October by the U.S. Forest Service to allow turtles, snakes and certain wildlife to migrate to their winter quarters in the rocks. This area has a ghostly sidebar, too. It seems local folk still tell of a headless horseman who frequents the Pine Hills and rides during the night as far south as Dug Hill on Route 145 near Jonesboro.

Atto Pass. Southern Illinois' highest panorama is seen from atop Bald Knob Cross, whose illuminated shape can be seen at night 20 miles away.

Trail of Tears State Forest. North of Ware, it reveals the sad history of 10,000 Cherokee Indians who were forced by the government to move from North Carolina to Oklahoma in 1839. The 800-mile migration brought them across Illinois to the Mississippi River. It was winter, and huge ice floes made a crossing into Missouri impossible. Forced to make camp, several hundred of the Indians starved and died. Steeply-angled slopes covered with every native southern Illinois tree now commemorate the Cherokee story.

The Union County Conservation Area. This area has 6,000 acres of crop and timber land that each year welcomes over 80,000 migrating Canada geese. Winging south from their Hudson Bay marsh, the geese flock along the Mississippi flyway to offer autumn bird watchers weeks of viewing. Before driving south to Cairo, visit the Thebes Courthouse. Overlooking the river, the 1848 building played a crucial role in setting legal precedents during the abolition issue of the 1860's. The slave Dred Scott was imprisoned in the Thebes dungeon prior to his trial and the decision which ultimately gave Blacks the right to their "legal person."

Horseshoe Lake Conservation Area. This area is best known for its bald cypress trees and unusual Illinois scenery. Anglers who like shallow-water "bucktail" fishing should find Horseshoe a change from northern waters. Over 150,000 Canada geese also winter here. Like a deep south swamp, the lake bursts with color during spring and summer when red buckeye and lotus come to flower.

Fort Defiance State Park. Overlooking the delta silt of the Mississippi-Ohio confluence at Cairo, this was a Civil War logistics center. Troops by the thousands drilled here; nearby river scenes, though a shadow of what once was, are worth a tour.

Magnolia Manor. At 28th and Washington, this brings a touch of the Old South to Cairo. Restored, the home schedules tours and special programs throughout the year. Mount City National Cemetery is nearby—burial place for 4,800 Union and Confederate soldiers. And for Civil War buffs, there's the Cairo Public Library.

Drive north to Anna, connecting with Route 51. If you see a side road...take it. Some of the best sights are those you stumble upon.

Giant City State Park. Named for its toppled rock formations, it's an extension of the Little Ozark Mountains—the only American range running east and west. Painted by ribbons of mineral deposits, the park's box-like stones and sheer walls support tints of dogwood, redbud and tupelo. No typical prairie, there are 75 different tree varieties here, among them peach and apple. Atop one bluff is an ancient "Indian Wall," a fortress-like curiosity enclosing several acres. Indians may have used it to trap buffalo. During the Civil War the shelter was used by fleeing military deserters. Giant City Lodge, open March through November, offers 12 cabins and a lodge. For reservations, call: 618/457-4921. Then drive north and see the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge, where observation platforms let you watch more Canada geese.

Carbondale's Southern Illinois University campus has added attractions—see the Visitors' Center in Woody Hall. The Touch of Nature Environmental Center schedules regular weekend excursions on horseback into the Crab Orchard Refuge, as well as rock-climbing workshops and special children's programs. Want more off-beat southern Illinois tidbits? Write: Illinois Ozarks Craft Guild, P.O. Box 3101, Carbondale, IL 62901.

Return to Murphysboro.

13.

As a surveyor, militia captain, storekeeper, postmaster, gristmill operator, lawyer and legislator, Abe Lincoln's combined experience took him on a continuous shuttle through the 19th Century prairie.

This 175-mile tour lets you touch what Lincoln touched. Start in Springfield.



The Lincoln Home. The Lincoln Home (8th and Jackson), was purchased in 1844, and except for an addition constructed 12 years later, the house remains original—from oak frames to hand-hewn sills and pine trim. It was here in 1860 that Lincoln received announcement of his nomination for the presidency. Original furniture, family paintings and personal items are exhibited. Stop at the visitors' center first.

The Ninian Edwards Home. At 406 S. 8th, it's a replica of the house where Lincoln courted and wed Mary Todd. Dioramas and displays chronicle the period.

The Lincoln-Herndon Building. At 6th and Adams, where Abe and Billy Herndon's third floor law offices were located. Documents, newspapers, half-burned candles and tables stacked with legal tracts are displayed.

The Old State Capitol. Near the Lincoln-Herndon Building, the Old State Capitol's Doric columns face a plaza lined with shops. It served as Illinois' third statehouse. Built in 1837, the Capitol has been painstakingly restored. Visit the Senate and House chambers, the old state library, Supreme Court, Treasurer's Office, Governor's Office, and the elegant first floor lobby. The Governor's office was used by Lincoln when he was president-elect. As a legislator, Lincoln also delivered his "House Divided" speech in Representative Hall. During summer evenings a "Sound and Light Show" is held on the Capitol grounds. Using electronic sound and visual effects, the performance recreates the days when Lincoln, U.S. Grant and Stephen Douglas served here.

The Lincoln Depot. On Monroe between 9th and 10th. This is where Lincoln's Springfield days ended with the farewell speech in 1861. The depot has been restored and includes exhibit areas and multi-media presentations.

The Oliver P. Parks Museum. At 529 S. 7th, this museum features the world's largest collection of antique telephone equipment. Admission is free. Open daily, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Lincoln's Tomb. Its granite spire rising 178 feet above Oak Ridge Cemetery (Routes 29 and 97), this National Landmark annually draws thousands of visitors from around the world. Enter from Route 29.

Lincoln Trail Homestead State Park. Lincoln and his family settled here after arriving from Indiana in 1830. A reconstructed cabin measuring 16 by 16 feet reflects the typical pioneer lifestyle of the era.

The Monticello and Sangamon Valley Railway Museum. Visitors can board and ride cabooses, steam locomotives and passenger cars from the 1920's. The highballing ride lasts 40 minutes. Open Memorial Day through October, weekends and holidays, noon to 5 p.m. To find it, drive toward Champaign, take Exit 63.

Allerton Park. A huge fairy tale estate on the Sangamon River shore, Allerton Park lets you stroll through formal flower gardens and sunken botanic designs surrounded by unusual sculptures. Near Bement is the Bryant Cottage State Memorial. Built in 1856, the small house is where Lincoln and Stephen Douglas first ironed out their plans for the famous debates of 1858.

Champaign. The Assembly Hall, its saucer dome seemingly hovering in the air, announces the campus of the University of Illinois. Visit the World Heritage Museum (484 Lincoln Hall), and the Information Center at 115 Illini Union for detailed campus attractions. Afterward, drive Route 10 west to Lincoln.

Bloomington. Though not too near, this town is still a worthwhile sidetrip on Route 55, Clover Lawn (1000 E. Jefferson), is a definite highlight. Built in 1870, the awesome Judge David Davis Estate is open Tuesday through Sunday, from 1 to 5 p.m. Filled with priceless furnishings, Clover Lawn's exhibits hail back to the days when Judge Davis and his friend Abraham Lincoln rode together on the Eighth Judicial Circuit.

Bloomington's Illinois State University Campus also has a day's worth of tour stops. For information, maps and brochures, drive to the Hovey Hall Building on North School Street.

Lake of the Woods Park and Botanical Gardens. Another sidetrip from Champaign, this is off Route 74 near Mahomet. A scale replica of San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge here spans a swimming and boating lake. The Early American Museum has 3,000 exhibits from Illinois' past. Flanked by an eight-acre garden and a greenhouse filled with exotic plants, the museum easily takes two hours to browse.

Southwest of Clinton, and reached during your drive west to Lincoln, is Weldon Springs State Park, once the midwest's center for extravagant Chautauquas. The DeWitt County Museum in Clinton is worth a stop.

Return to Springfield via Route 121 and Route 54 after visiting Lincoln and the Postville Courthouse (5th and Madison). The Mt. Palaski Courthouse (connect here with Route 54 to Springfield) is where Lincoln practiced law during his circuit-riding days.

Return to Springfield.

14.

Ever see a French fort? King Louis XV thought his Illinois outpost was the best in the New World. Other Mississippi River Valley things to see and do along this tour include a peek at the biggest prehistoric Indian earthwork in North America, Illinois' oldest building, and our own frontier "Liberty Bell."

It's 210 miles long, and begins in Collinsville.



Cahokia Mounds. West of Route 150 and south of Route 40, this site traces a thousand years of Illinois history. When London was a village, Cahokia already covered six square miles and had a 300-acre "downtown" area stockaded by 15,000 logs. Early Indians here moved 50 million cubic feet of earth to build their ceremonial shrines. Monks Mound, the largest prehistoric earthwork, covers 14 acres and rises 100 feet.

Our Lady of The Snows National Shrine. In Belleville, it's one of the nation's largest outdoor devotional sites; the replica Lourdes Grotto, a visitors' center, and weekend lodging set on landscaped grounds hosts thousands of travelers each year. A Christmas "Way of Lights" festival recreates the Stations of the Cross with 100,000 light sculptures.

Cahokia Courthouse. Built in 1737, this is the oldest courthouse west of the Alleghenies—and probably the oldest dwelling in the midwest. To find it, take Route 157 to Camp Jackson Rd., turn south on Route 50. More French colonial history can be viewed at the Old Holy Family Church (northeast of Route 57) and the Jarrott Mansion, oldest brick building in Illinois.

Eberhard's Bavarian Stein Museum. Here you'll find an authentic "bier stub" and a large mug collection. In Watertoo, the Peterson House remains as the only intact structure on the Kaskaskia Frontier Trail. Now drive to Ruma, and take Route 55 south.

Fort De Chartres. Built in the early 1700's, this fort once boasted walls four feet thick and eighteen feet high—France's most powerful outpost in the New World. Over 1,000 acres include the site of an old French village, 18th Century Indian settlement, and rebuilt guardhouse, gatehouses and original foundations of the officers' quarters. On Saturdays during summer a French "six-pounder" cannon is fired at high noon. The Fort De Chartres Rendezvous is held each June and features colonial military maneuvers, contests and pioneer food. After your visit, head back toward Route 3.

Prairie du Rocher. One of Illinois' oldest towns, Prairie du Rocher is a sidetrip before visiting Kaskaskia State Park and the nearby Pierre Menard Home, a stately colonial structure built by Illinois' first Lieutenant Governor.

Kaskaskia Island. Reached by traveling through Missouri, it's the only piece of Illinois land located west of the Mississippi. See the "Liberty Bell" of the west, older than its Philadelphia cousin, and given to settlers by King Louis XV. Illinois' first capital, Kaskaskia, was crippled by floods in 1881. East of Chester (home of the cartoonist who dreamed up Popeye) is St. Mary's River Bridge, a 98-foot burr arch relic.

The Shawnee National Forest. You'll see 240,000 acres of spectacular scenery here. Be sure to drive to Lake Murphysboro State Park and Lake Kinkaid. Canoers can enter the Big Muddy River in Murphysboro.

Du Quoin. This is the home of the annual Hambletonian, the nation's richest harness race; the Du Quoin State Fair also slates summer music and agricultural festivities. A folk festival held in fall includes unusual events like the Illinois Championship Cow-Chip Tossing Contest. Southeast of Du Quoin is Dowell, hometown of Rudolph Wanderone—better known as Minnesota Fats, pool pro. **Okaville.** A sidetrip west on Route 64, Okaville offers hot springs treatments at a spartan bathhouse. Located at Hanover and Walnut Streets, the 80-year-old structure is a traditional mecca for the ailing.

Washington County Conservation Area. Here, you'll see a 248-acre lake with two launching ramps; driving north, Carlyle Lake's 26,000 acres include convenient outdoor recreation areas at Eldon Hazlett and South Shore State Parks. The old Burnside pre-Civil War cemetery is located near Hazlett Park.

Before ending your tour in Collinsville (west on Route 50, to northbound Route 4, to Route 70), remember that nearby Edwardsville and its Southern Illinois University campus features a yearly Mississippi River Festival.

Tour 14 festivals include "12th Night," held at the Menard Home in Chester, plus food, dancing and singing by medieval French performing artists. The Du Quoin State Fair is held during the Labor Day weekend.

Return to Collinsville.

15.

Ride a chugging steam locomotive or see the winter home of 200,000 Canada geese. Hear the eerie chatter of swamp animals, and then visit the hometown of Superman before driving through the hilly Shawnee National Forest.

Start this 185-mile tour in Mt. Vernon.



The Mitchell Art Museum. Located at Cedarhurst and Richview in Mt. Vernon, the Mitchell Art Museum's pearly marble pillars are a doorway to 8,000 square feet of galleries; includes sculpture, cut glass, vases and special "Americanism" paintings. Nearby is the Applegate Courthouse, built in 1857, and the site of a famous tax trial won by lawyer Abraham Lincoln.

Reed Lake. This lake annually draws thousands of skiers who slice its 18,000 acres of water all summer long; Sandusky Creek has 200 campsites, and Gun Creek provides access for boats and eager bass anglers.

The Crab Orchard and Egyptian Railroad. On North Market St. in Marion, this site offers Sunday excursions (2 p.m.) aboard an old locomotive that takes visitors through the 43,000-acre Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge. Spanning half of Williamson County, Crab Orchard is a wintering roost for hundreds of thousands of migrating Canada geese. Check your map for the best route to bass fishing grounds at Devil's Kitchen, Little Grassy and Crab Orchard Lakes.

Ferne Clyffe State Park. Near Goreville, this was a resting stop for George Rogers Clark during his famous 1778 trek from Fort Massac to Kaskaskia, which led to Illinois' conquest during the Revolutionary War. Checkered with gorges, Ferne Clyffe has a 16-acre fishing lake. For hikers, there are natural rock overhangs and little woodland nooks connected by five trails. After your visit, take Route 24 south to Route 45 toward Metropolis.

Heron Pond and Wildcat Bluff Nature Preserve. Four miles southwest of Vienna, this area offers 1,000 acres of unusual plant life. Here, amid sandstone bluffs and the Cache River banks, grow a variety of white and chinquapin oak; swamps filled with cypress and tupelo also support a colony of great blue heron. Nearby, Little Black Slough provides an even more dramatic departure from what you thought Illinois looked like.

Next drive south to Memel Lake Conservation Area. It was here in 1702 that two Frenchmen, Mermet and St. Denis, hiked overland from the Mississippi to the southern Illinois fur trading post of Va. Bache. During the journey through dark cypress swamps, they were forced to stop at a massive log jam which apparently hid the stream they had been following all day. Confused and thinking they were lost, Mermet said: "Est Cache!"

"Cette Crique?" St. Denis asked, pointing to a break in the tangled debris. Mermet stumbled forward, kicked through a pile of tree limbs, and shook his head.

"The creek is hidden," he sighed.

The two men finally found their way home. At this point, however, they also managed to name what remains as the Cache River—a favorite canoeing stream for summer paddlers.

Metropolis. This town doesn't treat Superman lightly. Even Kryptonite, the Man of Steel's only earthly foe, is a serious matter for this town of 7,000. A local restaurant displays an enlarged version of Clark Kent scampering from a telephone booth garbed only in those famous tights and red cape. Look at the downtown water tower and you'll spot Superman's emblem. Another telephone booth lets kids gab with their hero. And the name of the Metropolis newspaper? The Planet, of course.

Fort Massac State Park. Now reconstructed with typically western stockades, Fort Massac doesn't really resemble the original French outpost which stood here in the 1700's. Your imagination, however, will get a boost. George Rogers Clark and his "Long Knives" used Massac as a base for their march to Kaskaskia in 1778. George Washington ordered the installation rebuilt during a confrontation between France and Spain in 1794. Today, visitors can enjoy interpretive exhibits that trace the area's development. Camping and fishing are also available. "Fort Massac '76," a festival highlighting military and civilian lifestyles during the 1700's, is held each October. Next drive north on Route 24 to Route 45.

The Lake of Egypt Recreation Area. This offers a sidetrip into typical Shawnee Forest scenery. In Harrisburg, be sure to stop at the Shawnee National Forest Headquarters, 317 E. Poplar Street, for maps and detailed information on southern Illinois' outdoor attractions.

Driving north on Route 142, the Hamilton County Conservation Area south of McLeansboro offers gently rolling hills and plenty of camping and boating facilities.

Return to Mt. Vernon.

16.

Rugged hiking buffs will like this 95-mile circuit tour of the Shawnee National Forest. Or you can dawdle where river pirates once lived, and see the first Illinois bank—or visit the village founded by Daniel Boone's brother.

Begin in Harrisburg at Shawnee Headquarters (317 E. Poplar) for detailed backwoods maps and guides.



Old Shawneetown. A sidetrip east on Route 13, this was Illinois' first banking center. The John Marshall House issued the state's first currency in 1816. And local folk still enjoy the story about two Chicago men who rode south in the 1800's to borrow money for their fledgling village. Shawneetown officials, however, refused to loan \$10,000 on the grounds that the settlement on Lake Michigan was a "poor risk."

Use your imagination in this once thriving rivertown. Though a remnant of its former self, there are still surprises. The old Westwood Cemetery (between Old and "New" Shawneetown) is worth the drive. New Haven (county road north) was settled by Joseph Boone, Daniel's brother, in 1814.

The Pounds Hollow Recreation Area. Just southwest of Bowlesville, this area is tucked in a valley and features a swimming and boating lake, Pounds Escarpment, a bluff and mesa tract, includes a prehistoric "Indian Wall." Photographers should hike along Rim Rock Nature Trail.

Karbbers Ridge and High Knob Vista. These include some of the best vistas of the Shawnee Forest. To find Karbbers Ridge, drive inland; for High Knob Vista, turn north at General Store and drive two miles.

Garden of the Gods. Northwest of Karbbers Ridge, is convenient for hikers who want less rugged access to the Shawnee Forest. Five city blocks of flagstone path weave through 200-million-year-old rock formations; nearby trails geared for the adventurous total five miles. Set against a sweep of rolling hills, favorite landmarks are Anvil Rock, Mushroom Rock, Buzzard Roost and Camel Rock.

Cave-In-Rock State Park. This site was once a hideout for notorious river pirates like Sam Mason, who lured travelers to their doom in the 1700's. Brothers Big Harpe and Little Harpe, a murdering duo from Kentucky, lived here in the 1800's. Outlaws, counterfeiters...they were here. Pirate's Bluff Trail offers good views, as well as a chance to let your imagination run wild.

Tower Rock. A 160-foot overlook which peers across the river toward Kentucky. Tower Rock has a shady picnic cove located below a chiseled cliff. Reach this landmark via Route 146 northeast from Elizabethtown.

The Hardin County Fluorspar Museum. At 5th and Walnut in Rosiclare, this museum highlights Illinois' state mineral. Mined from 900-foot shafts, the glassy gem is displayed in a restored old hospital which doubles as a local history museum. Half the U.S. fluorspar supply is gathered in Hardin County. North of town is the Illinois Iron Furnace, a National Historic Site dating from 1837. The turret-shaped furnace, the first charcoal-fired site in the state, once processed iron "pigs" which were hauled by wagon to the Ohio River.

Golconda. Founded by a Revolutionary War officer in the 1700's, Golconda today explodes during the annual Pope County Deer Festival. Over 5,000 hunters register for the county's White Tail season, then shout their glee during a three-day bash marked by parades, food, dancing, and a "Deer Queen Pageant." Town founder James Lusk marked the original trail which is now Route 146—the same path on which the Cherokee Indians were forced to march during their tragic 1838 journey from the Smoky Mountains. A riverside hotel, built in 1836 by a riverboat magnate, still provides lodging.

Dixon Springs State Park. Ten miles west of Golconda, this was once a meeting place for Ozark region Indians. Lake Glendale's 85 acres offer swimming and boating in clear Shawnee Forest waters.

Burden Falls. You'll find one of the state's most attractive cascades here, just west of Delwood. Belle Smith Springs is nearby, its caves once used as protection by Indian hunting parties. Downstream is a 125-foot natural bridge, a stone arch sculpted by wind several thousand years ago.

Lusk Creek Canyon. Its river birch and red maples fringing cliffs that reach 100 feet above an enclosed hairpin turn, Lusk Creek Canyon is located east of Eddyville. Clubmoss, which thrived during the ice age, can be found here. For the best views, hike Indian Kitchen Trail. To reach the heart of the creek area, drive east from town on the backloop; after two miles turn left on the gravel road and continue to a large rock bridge. Park and take the trail on your left. It's a two-mile walk—a rugged one.

Saline County Conservation Area. All southeast of Equality, this area borders the Shawnee hills and was once a center for tobacco crops. If you search you'll still find remains of old brine wells which furnished material for local salt works. Jones Lake is a good stop for a picnic.

Like its unusual animal natives (swamp darters, starhead top minnows, rice rats, scorpions, flathead snakes and red cave salamanders) southern Illinois also has more than a few strange rock formations. Like Old Stone Face near Rudement. Resembling the withered profile of a dour old man, the landmark overlooks the Saline Valley. Oak and cedar cling to its rock cheeks and make shade for hikers who want yet another view of the Shawnee landscape.

Now return to Harrisburg.

17.

Feel like a short 95-mile tour? One with a bit of the outdoors, and some historic attractions thrown in for good measure?

Then start in Vandalia and drive the county road south to Pittsburg, through Keysport, to the waters of Illinois' largest inland lake.



Vandalia. For 20 years the capital of Illinois, Vandalia today reigns as the seat of Fayette County. Lincoln arrived here in 1834 as a freshman representative from the log cabin village of New Salem. Self-educated surveyor, Black Hawk War veteran, the 27-year-old country lawyer soon learned what made things tick in the political arena. Along with several other legislators (called the "Long Nine" because of their combined physical height) he lobbied successfully to have the capital moved to Springfield. The white pillars of the 20th Century Vandalia Statehouse announce a restored interior that features an arm's length list of historic events and tours throughout the year. The Supreme Court, the old Treasurer's Office... visitors can see them by candlelight once each year.

For more travel information on southern Illinois attractions visit the Tourist Center, 1408 N. 5th. Open May-Labor Day, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. At the corner of the Statehouse ground is the Madonna of the Trail. A monument to pioneer mothers which marks the Cumberland Trail.

On a farm just outside of town there once lived a poor family whose members held little hope for the future. There were eight children. One of those kids, Haroldson Lafayette Hunt, left home one day and went to Texas. He later became H. L. Hunt, one of the world's wealthiest men.

Carlyle Lake. Illinois' largest lake. Already the site of a frontier fort back in 1812, the town of Carlyle includes two nearby outdoor attractions—Eldon Hazlett and South Shore State Parks, combining for nearly 4,000 acres. Next, drive east (Route 50) through the old railway center of Sandoval.

Salem. The birthplace of William Jennings Bryan (408 Broadway), three-time Democratic presidential nominee. Born in 1860, Bryan died in 1925 following the famous Tennessee "Monkey Trial," in which he opposed lawyer Clarence Darrow and denied the theory of evolution as it applied to man. Once the scene of oil gushers during the late 1930's, Salem still pumps some black gold today.

Three miles south of town is the Halfway Tavern, a restored 1818 stagecoach stop which housed travelers along the old Vincennes-Kaskaskia Trail.

Stephen A. Forbes State Park. A sidetrip northeast of Salem, this park is centered on a 585-acre lake that can accommodate 100 docked boats. A short hike east of the park and you can view one of Illinois' last stands of native Indian grass, the same high growths the first pioneers saw in the 1800's.

Pioneer Log Cabin Village. Northeast of Forbes Park, in Kindmudy, this stop is as interesting as its founder and owner, Erma Ingram.

Erma collects logs cabins, scouting for them personally during her frequent trips into the southern Illinois backcountry. Rarely paying more than \$100 for a discarded home, she then transports her find log by log, assembling each relic painstakingly. Boasting one of the midwest's best collections of authentic cabins, Pioneer Village offers visitors views of what life was really like on the wilderness prairie.

Like re-potted plants, each structure hails from a different Illinois county. One home was built in 1828 near St. Peter, moved in 1870 to Loogootee, then purchased by Erma for Pioneer Village several years ago. Another cabin hails from 1818 and is believed to have been used by a young pioneer family migrating west across Illinois from Indiana.

Pioneer Village is open daily 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekends, July through October. Afterwards, return to Vandalia via Route 185 from Farina. Other Tour 17 festivals include Vandalia's "Grand Levee," which highlights evening chamber music and traditional refreshments in the old Statehouse. Held third weekend in June.

Return to Vandalia.

18.

Copper and white signs mark 2,500 miles along the posted Lincoln Heritage Trail; curling through Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois, this 440-mile portion traces the life of Abraham Lincoln from the time he arrived in Illinois to the day he departed Springfield for the White House.

It starts on the west bank of the Wabash River, near Routes 33 and 50.



The Lincoln Trail State Memorial. This should jolt you back to 1830. Lincoln was 21 years old, lanky and strong as he prodded a team of oxen north onto the prairie. Following the river, Abe and his family arrived in Palestine—a hamlet with two taverns, a few stores, and a land claims office. Ahead lay Marshall, where the 13-member Lincoln family glimpsed the ocean of wagon-high Indian grass which covered most of 19th Century Illinois. Today Lincoln Trail State Park marks this portion of the family journey.

Charleston. Here, the wagon team lumbered across the Embarras River; nearly three decades later, Lincoln would debate Stephen A. Douglas near the present Coles County Fairground. A tablet marks the spot off Route 316. In Old Charleston Cemetery lies the grave of Lincoln's boyhood friend and cousin, Dennis Hanks. Midway between Charleston and Mattoon you'll view where the Lincolns settled after their son decided to strike out and head for Springfield. That reconstructed two-room house is at Lincoln Log Cabin State Park. Thomas and Sarah Lincoln are buried three miles north, in Shiloh Cemetery.

The Moore Home. To find it, follow signs south. It's where Lincoln stopped for dinner with his step-sister Matilda. It was 1861, and he was heading for the White House as president-elect. Then follow Route 121 to Sullivan (visit the Little Theater) and connect with Routes 32 and 36 to Decatur.

The winter of 1830-31 was disappointing for the Lincolns, who settled first eight miles south of Decatur at Lincoln Trail Homestead State Park. The hillside cabin along the Sangamon River was used by the family until spring, when Abe left to build a flatboat for a man named Denton Offutt.

The Mount Pulaski Courthouse and The Postville Courthouse. Both are in Lincoln; and both are remnants of the Eighth Judicial Circuit, 11,000 square miles of frontier which Lincoln traveled full-time for a dozen years.

Springfield. This city marked a crucial point in Lincoln's life, one that was also distinguished by a healthy dose of humor. "A man's lower limbs," he once said, debating the length of human legs, "...in order to preserve harmony or proportion, should at least be long enough to reach from his body to the ground."

Another anecdote tells how Lincoln froze a political rival's campaign methods during a frenzied religious gathering. Running for U.S. Representative, Lincoln was pressed on the question of whether or not he was destined to end up in heaven or hell. Lincoln's challenger, a Methodist preacher named Cartwright, asked the assembled crowd to stand if they felt they would go to heaven. All but Lincoln took the cue and rose from their seats. Asked just where he thought he would go, Lincoln responded dryly: "I am going to Congress."

Springfield attractions are easily enough to keep you busy for the weekend. See Tour 13 for details on the Old State Capitol, the Lincoln Home, and special summer outdoor theater performances.

New Salem State Park. Its crude log homes as they were when Lincoln lived here for six years, New Salem State Park is a sidetrip from Springfield. Shops, a school, the old Rutledge Tavern, and a church mark this frontier village as one of America's most authentic restorations. Be sure to visit the Onstot Cooperage, where Lincoln often studied his law books by the light of a hearth fire. A few miles north of Petersburg is the grave of Ann Rutledge, Lincoln's legendary love. Summer rides on the "Talisman," a replica river sternwheeler are featured, as well as the play, "Your Obedient Servant, A. Lincoln." Staged outdoors, performances are scheduled mid-June through August.

In Nearby Athens, visit the Long Nine Museum... then drive to Vandalia and the old Statehouse, where Lincoln first served as a freshman legislator from Sangamon County. Routes 51 and 50 take you to Sandoval... and Salem, birthplace of William Jennings Bryan (408 Broadway). The home is now a museum. Included in the wealth of memorabilia is a pair of well-worn campaign shoes which Bryan used during his three unsuccessful tries for the Presidency.

Mt. Vernon. Here, you'll find the courthouse where Lincoln won a tax case for the Illinois Central Railroad back in 1859. Also, drive through McLeansboro and to Carmi, where Lincoln made a speech in 1840. He lodged at the Ratcliff Inn, built in 1828 and now a museum.

Follow Route 1 along the Wabash River Valley to Lawrenceville, where each April the "Old Settlers Days" festival brings to life the 19th Century prairie. Held at Red Hills State Park, the fest includes frontier craft demonstrations, music and old standby sports like tobacco spitting, greased pole climbing and pie eating.

Return to Lawrenceville.

19.

America's Great River Road curls south from Minnesota's Lake Itasca to the Gulf of Mexico, a 1,750-mile journey that traces the course of the Mississippi like a trailing finger. Of that highway network, a full 510 miles belong to Illinois.

This tour takes in about half of that, and starts in Galena. (For the other half, see Tour 20.)



Galena. Its tiered streets and panoply of Victorian, Federalist and Italian-Colonnade architecture calls for a full day of browsing. Steeped churches, restored mansion guest homes, antique shops, specialty stores, museums and restaurants cling to Galena's hillsides. One such landmark, the home of U. S. Grant, is fully restored and filled with original furnishings and personal items of the Presidential family. The old Galena Depot offers free visitors' information.

For a walking tour, start at the Market House on Commerce Street. The 1840's trade center is convenient for exploring Main Street antique shops. Also stroll up "Quality Hill," and along Galena's tiered avenues. An old rutted cobblestone path slopes up from Main Street to a frontier stockade and underground refuge. A miner's trading post built by John Dowling still stands in the center of town. The Historical Society on Bench Street, a collector's haven for Civil War artifacts, is known for its Thomas Nash painting, "Peace in Union," which depicts Lee's surrender to Grant. North of town is the Vinegar Hill Lead Mine, a remnant of Galena's boom town heritage. Sidetrips from town: Lake Le-Aqua-Na and Apple River Canyon State Parks, located north of Route 20.

After your Galena tour, drive south on the county road to Rice, and continue to Hanover and Route 84 south.

Mississippi Palisades State Park. Its rugged limestone cliffs jutting from the Illinois shoreline, this park features year-round recreation. For hikers, there's Sunset Trail and a grand overlook of the river.

Every rivertown has a story, and Fulton is no exception. Named for Robert Fulton, inventor of the steamboat, the village in 1875 was the scene of a confrontation between federal agents and gangleader Ben Boyd. The Boyd counterfeiting gang unsuccessfully tried to steal the body of Abraham Lincoln from his tomb in Springfield, hoping to use the play and demand the release of their leader.

The Quad Cities. With Rock Island and Moline offering attractions like Arsenal Island, the Deere and Company Administration Center and Black Hawk State Park, the Quad Cities provide another day-long stop.

As you drive toward western Illinois' rivertowns (Route 92 south, then south again from Illinois City), be sure to watch for buildings left from when this region was bursting with commerce and steamboat revenues. New Boston has two such old mansions at the edge of town.

Big River State Forest. Near Keithsburg, Big River State Forest has nearly 3,000 acres laced with 60 miles of firebreaks—perfect for hiking. Boat launching ramps provide access into the Mississippi.

Nauvoo. Once Illinois' most vibrant and successful rivertown. Swelled with a population of over 27,000 in the 1840's, the village today has about 1,000 residents. Founded by Joseph Smith and his Mormon followers, Nauvoo includes a large selection of carefully restored homes and commercial buildings. The Brigham Young Home and the workshop of gunsmith Jonathan Browning are examples. Tours are free. The Gem City Vineland Company on East Parley Street also conducts tours through its winery. A yearly "Grape Festival" is held each Labor Day, drawing thousands for a celebration of Nauvoo's French heritage. Nauvoo State Park allows camping, and boasts a displayed portion of the old Mormon Temple. The Joseph Smith Homestead and the Visitors' Center both provide free information.

Small knolls and bluffs hulking 100 feet above the Mississippi provide a setting for your next stop.

Quincy. Here, riverfront architecture and the Quincy and Adams County Historical Society (12th near State) provide a few hours of touring. The mansion of town founder John Wood is now filled with local lore and exhibits. Nearly 1,000 acres of city parks keep Quincy green, as well as a huge recreation area on Quinsippi Island—reached by boat or aerial cable car. Each April the town hosts a "Dogwood Festival," where pageants, dancing and parades show off Quincy's native flower.

Continue to second portion of tour.

20.

This is the other half of the Great River Road tour and takes you through the French Colonial District, past some of North America's greatest archeological treasures, and south to the confluence of the Mississippi's sister streams—the Missouri and Ohio Rivers.

It picks up in Kampsville.



Kampsville. Its famous Koster Archeological Digs chronicle 7,000 years of Illinois prehistory; though the digs have been stopped after 12 "horizon levels," visitors can still see artifacts displayed in a museum south of the Route 100/108 junction. Summers only.

Grafton. Here you'll see riverside stilt-houses and Pere Marquette State Park. Named after the French missionary who touched ashore here in 1673, the park's 8,000 acres include a year-round vacation lodge and guest cottages. For reservations, call: 618/786-3351.

Elsah. Nestled downriver against a bluff, Elsalh was named after a hamlet in Scotland. Like a European village, Elsalh's decorated bridges and stone cottages make for a convenient walking tour. Start at Mississippi and LaSalle Streets; the wooden building on your left is the old Riverview House. Near Elm Street is the Brock-Belote House, built in 1856. Four blocks north is the Elsalh School, still used for civic functions though it dates from before the Civil War. Walk the length of Mill Street, double back, and stroll the sidestreets. Watch for river barges heading downriver... and have your camera ready.

A sidetrip from the Grafton area takes you by ferry to Brussels, where a former stagecoach stop, the Wittmond Hotel, still serves celebrated homemade food. Now drive through Alton for the connection with southbound Route 3.

The Elijah Lovejoy Monument. In the City Cemetery, two blocks north of Broadway on Monument Ave., this monument was named for the abolitionist editor who was killed by a mob as he tried to protect his press. At Rozier and State is another memorial, this one for 1,634 Confederate soldiers who died here while interred in a Civil War prison camp. Antique shops and old homes are located along the Alton riverfront.

As you pass Wood River and Granite City watch for the junction with Route 203; just west, at the Mississippi, is where Captain Meriwether Lewis and William Clark wintered prior to their 1804 exploration of the Louisiana Territory. Lewis and Clark State Park is located a few miles south on St. Louis Road in Collinsville.

Our Lady of The Snows National Shrine. Reach it by driving Route 15 through East St. Louis to Belleville.

Cahokia Mounds State Park. Site of North America's largest prehistoric Indian earthworks, Cahokia Mounds State Park is located south of Route 55 on Collinsville Road.

Also watch for the Cahokia Courthouse, built in 1737 and thought to be the oldest building in the midwest. The structure served as the seat of government for the Northwest Territory. Not far away is the Church of the Holy Family, built in 1799. Then continue south on Route 3, consulting your highway map as you drive through the heart of the French Colonial District.

Fort Kaskaskia State Park. Founded as a mission in 1703, this park overlooks the site of Illinois' first capital city. The Pierre Menard Home in Chester is an example of affluent colonial architecture.

Kaskaskia Island. This was part of the Illinois mainland until the Mississippi River changed course. It's reached via toll bridge from Chester. The 20,000-acre island is ringed by a levee; inside the protective oval is a small building which displays the "Liberty Bell" of the west, cast in 1741 as a gift from the King of France.

A sidetrip to Ruma and Route 155 takes you to Prairie du Rocher, one of the state's oldest settlements. Fort De Chartres State Park, France's most powerful military outpost during the 1700's, is a short drive away.

Now drive through a portion of "Little Egypt," Illinois' 14 southernmost counties.

Grand Tower. A 60-foot rock pillar marks town sights like the Huthmacher House. Mark Twain described this portion of the Illinois shoreline in his "Life on the Mississippi." Farther south is Bald Knob Cross (highest point in southern Illinois), Trail of Tears State Forest and the Union Conservation Area.

Cairo. The great confluence of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. A rich black delta guarded by dikes announce Cairo, a major Union Army base during the Civil War. Pronounced "Kayro," this town features traditional southern flavor at Magnolia Manor, located near 28th Street and Washington. Once the arrival point for 44,000 Confederate prisoners, Cairo's Mound City National Cemetery remains as the resting place for 2,400 unidentified soldiers. Fort Defiance State Park, built in 1861, was where General Grant from Galena took command of troops prior to launching his campaign against the South.

Your Great River Road tour ends here.

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Access to Illinois state parks, conservation areas, forests or properties under jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service is subject to prevailing weather conditions and local regulations.

This guide is designed to help you get the most out of touring Illinois.

But first, here's how to get the most out of this guide.

This guide will help you walk in Abraham Lincoln's footsteps. It'll show you where to hitch a ride on a Mississippi paddlewheeler. Explore the hideout of a pirate gang. Stand on top of the world's tallest building. Or hike into the heart of a craggy wilderness area.

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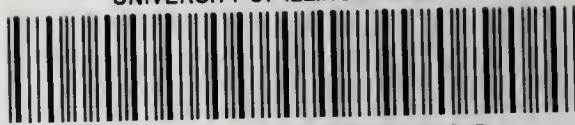
But to be sure you make every turn—and maybe discover a few of your own—always use an official Illinois highway map to plot your course before leaving home. Consult our illustration, but don't hesitate to make changes.

You might also want several other guides, like the free Illinois Calendar of Events, listing festivals from French Colonial Reenactments to current performances by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Or the Camping Guide, with details on hundreds of state- and privately-owned facilities. And for lodging—the Hotel Motel Guide for information on room rates and locations along each tour.

To get them, write to the Illinois Office of Tourism, Department of Business and Economic Development at either 222 S. College St., Springfield, IL 62706; or 2209 W. Main St., Marion, IL 62959. Or stop in or write to The Illinois Adventure Center, 160 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL 60601.

Illinois Office of Tourism
Department of Business and Economic Development
222 South College Street
Springfield, Illinois 62706

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